

## Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO USIA WASHDC

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SUBJ: VISIT OF GENERAL CLARK TO AUSTRIA

REF : VIENNA 8221

SUMMARY: GENERAL MARK W. CLARK CONCLUDED SEPT 29 SUCCESSFUL 9-DAY AUSTRIAN VISIT MARKED BY UNUSUALLY EXTENSIVE MEDIA COVERAGE AND WARM PRAISE FROM AUSTRIAN LEADERS.

1. GENERAL MARK W. CLARK, FIRST U.S. HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR AUSTRIA, ACCOMPANIED BY MRS. CLARK AND RETIRED MAJOR GEN. CHARLES SALTZMAN (FORMERLY ON THE GENERAL'S STAFF IN AUSTRIA), DEPARTED VIENNA SEPTEMBER 29, CONCLUDING A 9-DAY VISIT, WHICH WAS REMARKABLE THROUGHOUT FOR THE GREAT WARMTH AND ENTHUSIASM OF THE GENERAL'S RECEPTION (SEE REFTEL). MEDIA TREATMENT HAS BEEN EXTRAORDINARILY FRIENDLY AND EXTENSIVE. THUS FARE THE POST HAS MONITORED 34 FEATURES, COMMENTARIES AND NEWS ITEMS IN 14 AUSTRIAN JOURNALS; ADDITIONALLY, AT LEAST 2 LEADING PERIODICALS ARE PLANNING MAJOR STORIES FOR THEIR NEXT EDITIONS. ORF-TV'S NEWS DIVISION FILMED NOT ONLY THE GENERAL'S MANY ENGAGEMENTS IN THE CAPITAL, BUT ALSO COVERED HIS VISITS TO HINTERSTODER (NEAR UNCLASSIFIED

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LINZ) AND SALZBURG; THESE WERE USED IN THREE SPECIAL REPORTS

ON HIS ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE MAIN INTERNATIONAL NEWSCASTS ON SEPTEMBER 21, 26 AND 28 EVENINGS. ADDITIONALLY, THE GENERAL TAPED TWO TELEVISION INTERVIEWS FOR ORF'S DOCUMENTARIES DIVISION: ONE, FOR A FEATURE COMMEMORATING THE END OF WORLD WAR II NEXT SPRING; THE OTHER, FOR A PROGRAM ON AMERICAN INFLUENCE ON AUSTRIAN CULTURE, TO BE SHOWN DURING THE BICENTENNIAL.

2. AMONG THE MORE THAN A DOZEN INTERVIEWS GRANTED BY THE GENERAL WERE TWO TO A DOCTORAL STUDENT AND ARCHIVIST. THE IMMEDIATE POST WAR PERIOD IS RECEIVING INCREASING ATTENTION FROM THE NEW GENERATION OF HISTORIANS; UNFORTUNATELY, THE GENERAL'S SCHEDULE DID NOT PERMIT ALL OF THOSE WHO WANTED ARCHIVAL INTERVIEWS TO HAVE THE NECESSARILY TIME-CONSUMING INTERVIEWS. THE GENERAL INDICATED THAT HE WOULD WELCOME RESEARCHERS IN CHARLESTON AND, IN HIS CAPACITY AS PAST PRESIDENT OF THE CITADEL, ARRANGED FOR AN ANNUAL ONE-YEAR EXCHANGE OF THREE CITADEL CADETS WITH CADETS FROM THE AUSTRIAN MILITARY ACADEMY, WIENER NEUSTADT.

3. THE GENERAL'S VISIT TO THE AUSTRIAN PRESIDENT AND THE DINNER IN HIS HONOR HOSTED BY CHANCELLOR KREISKY, BOTH ON SEPTEMBER 25, WERE MARKED BY TRIBUTES FROM AUSTRIA'S LEADERS TO THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE GENERAL IN PARTICULAR AND THE UNITED STATES IN GENERAL TO AUSTRIA'S PEACEFUL DEMOCRATIC RECONSTRUCTION.

4. RETURNING FOR AN OVERNIGHT VISIT ON SEPTEMBER 26 TO HINTERSTRODER -- A VILLAGE OFTEN VISITED BY THE GENERAL FOR RECREATION -- THE GENERAL FOUND THE ENTIRE POPULATION TURNED OUT WITH AMERICAN FLAGS TO GREET HIM AND TO MAKE HIS STAY THE OCCASION FOR A PUBLIC CELEBRATION AND HOLIDAY.

5. MORE HONORS AND CEREMONIES AWAITED GENERAL CLARK ON SEPTEMBER 27 AND 28 IN THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL OF SALZBURG, ONCE HIS HEADQUARTERS AS HIGH COMMISSIONER, WHERE THE MAYOR, VICE-MAYOR AND GOVERNOR RECEIVED AND ENTERTAINED HIM. A FULL BAND FROM THALGAU VILLAGE, DRESSED IN TRADITIONAL COSTUME, HAILED THE GENERAL UPON ARRIVAL AT THE SALZBURG RESIDENZ (OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR AND PALACE USED FOR CEREMONIAL FUNCTIONS) FOR A PRESENTATION BY THE SALZBURG GOVERNMENT OF A SPECIAL "EHRENBECHER" (LOVING CUP); THE GENERAL ALSO TOURED THE SCHWARZENBERG KASERNE, THE SALZBURG SEMINAR IN AMERICAN STUDIES AND SCHLOSS KLESSHEIM, UNCLASSIFIED

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ONCE HIS RESIDENCE, NOW A STATE GUEST HOUSE (LOCAL AUTHORITIES THOUGHTFULLY FLEW THE AMERICAN FLAG ATOP THE SCHOOLS FOR THE GENERAL'S RETURN). ALMOST WITHOUT PRECEDENT, HIS SALZBURG PRESS CONFERENCE WAS ATTENDED BY CHIEF EDITORS OF THE FOUR MAJOR LOCAL DAILIES, INCLUDING ONE CRUTSY JOURNALIST WHO HAD NOT APPEARED AT AN AMERICAN FUNCTION IN OVER A DECADE.

6. THE UNIFORMLY FRIENDLY TONE OF THE MEDIA IN HANDLING THE

GERNERAL'S VIST, THE FULSOME PRAISE BESTOWED UPON HIM, THE TOTAL ABSENCE OF ANY PUBLIC CRITICISM ARE INDICATORS OF THE HIGH REGARD WITH WHICH GENERAL CLARK IS PERSONALLY HELD IN AUSTRIA. THE HONORS BESTOWED UPON HIM SHOULD BE TAKEN AS SINCERE EFFORTS TO EXPRESS APPRECIATION FOR HIS SERVICES TO AUSTRI. ONLY THE COMMUNIST NEWSPAPERS HAVE REMAINED SILENT ON HIS VISIT -- A CLEAR MEASURE OF HIS ENDURING ESTEEM IN THIS COUNTRY: THEY SIMPLY DIDN'T WANT TO AKE HIM ON.

7. OF THE MANY COMMENTARIES, ONE FROM THE FRONT PAGE OF DIE FURCHEN A VIENNA CATHOLIC WEEKLY, EXPRESSED THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE VISIT. TRANSLATION AS FOLLOWS: "MARK CLARK IN VIENNA. THE AMERICAN WHOSE NAME IS LINKED FOR THE AUSTRIANS WITH NOSTALGIC FEELINGS IN REMEMBRANCE OF A TIME WHICH WAS NOT REALLY THE BEST. JUST NOSTALGIA? IT IS A FACT THAT MANY AUSTRIANS OWE THEIR SURVIVAL TO THE U.S. HIGH COMMISSIONER FROM 1945 TO 1947. THE FOOD PACKAGES HELPED MANY PEOPLE WEATHER THE WORST, AUSTRIA HERSELF, SMALL AUSTRIA, PROBABLY DOES NOT OWE TO ANY OTHER MAN AS MUCH AS SHE OWES TO MARK CLARK. IT WAS HE WHO SET THE COURSE LEADING TO INDEPENDENCE AND WHO OFFERED DETERMINED RESISTANCE TO THE RUSSIANS. IT WAS HE WHO PREVENTED OUR BECOMING A PEOPLE'S DEMOCRACY IN 1945.

"CLARK SAYS IN 1974: 'TODAY AS BEFORE, IT IS TRUE THAT THE RUSSIANS ARE IMPRESSED ONLY WHEN THEY MUST DEAL WITH AN OPPONENT WHO IS STRONG.'

" MARK CLARK A COLD WARRIOR? NO. JUST AN EXPERINCED TEACHER."

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8. NOTEWORTHY ALSO ARE THE FAVORABLE COMMENTS OF THE SOCIALIST NEWSPAPERS. THE VIENNA ARBEITER ZEITUNG PAID TRIBUTE TO THE GENERAL'S HUMANITARIANISM, RECALLED THE CARE PROGRAM AND LOCATED FOR A REUNION WITH THE GENERAL MIDDLE-AGED AUSTRIANS WHOSE CHILDHOOD PICTURES WITH THE GENERAL (ONE IN A HOSPITAL, ONE RECEIVING A CARE PACKAGE) HAD BEEN FEATURED IN A PREVIOUS EDITION ANNOUNCING THE VISIT.

9. INDIRECTLY, THE EMBASSY HAS HEARD THAT THE RUSSIANS HAVE NOT BEEN HAPPY WITH THE GENERAL'S RETURN; CERTAINLY THIS IS UNDERSTANDABLE SINCE THE GENERAL'S VISIT HAS BROUGHT THE INEVITABLE UNFAVORABLE COMPARISON BETWEEN AMERICAN AND SOVIET TREATMENT OF AUSTRIA AFTER THE WAR. POSSIBLY, ALSO SOME SOCIALIST CIRCLES ARE SLIGHTLY MIFFED BECAUSE OF TRIBUTES PAID TO FIGL, THE OEVP LEADER WHO HAD A GREAT ROLE IN OBTAINING THE STATE TREATY. CERTAINLY, HOWEVER, RECALLING THE GENERAL'S SERVICE TO AUSTRIA, NEITHER THE PRESIDENT OR THE CHANCELLOR APPEARED SENSITIVE TO THE POINT THAT THE GENERAL'S CLOSEST AUSTRIAN CO-WORKERS OF THAT PERIOD WERE FROM THE PRESENT OPPOSITION PARTY, WHICH WAS THEN IN POWER. ALSO, FOR THE AMBASSADOR'S FAREWELL DINNER FOR THE GENERAL AT THE RESIDENCE ON SEPTEMBER 28, AUSTRIAN LEADERS FROM BOTH PARTIES (INCLUDING MAYOR GRATZ OF VIENNA, MINISTER UNCLASSIFIED

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FIRNBERG, OEVP LEADER SCHLEINZER, FORMER OEVP FOREIGN MINISTER GRUBER) JOINED IN UNANIMOUS EXPRESSIONS OF APPRECIATION FOR THE GENERAL'S SERVICES.

10. IN SUM, THE MISSION BELIEVES THAT THE GENERAL'S VISIT HAS BEEN AN ENORMOUS PLUS FOR THE AMERICAN IMAGE IN AUSTRIA. THE OLDER GENERATION HAS BEEN REMINDED OF THE CONTINUITY OF AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP WHILE THE YOUNGER HAS BEEN STIMULATED TO FOCUS ON THE HISTORY OF AUSTRIAN RECONSTRUCTION AND AMERICA'S POSITIVE ROLE.ARNOLD

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